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PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Sen. Balfour elected NCSL Vice President



Sen. Balfour temporarily takes the helm of the Senate for Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle during the 2007 Session earlier this year.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS - State Sen. Don Balfour (R-Snellville) was elected vice president of the National Council for State Legislators (NCSL) by more than 8,600 of his colleagues from across the nation, at their annual meeting today in Boston, Massachusetts. Sen. Balfour, who has served in the Georgia Senate for nearly 20 years, is the first legislator from Georgia to be elected to NCSL office since the organization was formed in 1975.

“I am honored that my fellow legislators have shown their confidence in me as a leader, and I am humbled that they have chosen me to serve as their vice president,” Sen. Balfour, who is chairman of the powerful Senate Rules Committee, said.

The National Conference of State Legislatures is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues. The Conference is an effective and respected advocate for the interests of state governments before Congress and federal agencies.

Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle expressed his pleasure with Sen. Balfour's election on Wednesday morning. "Senator Balfour has made us all proud by being elected vice president of NCSL. Georgia will now have a stronger voice in this important organization and I am confident that Senator Balfour's excellent leadership abilities and expertise will be an asset to NCSL."

Prior to his election, Sen. Balfour served on the NCSL Executive Committee as an at-large member. The last member of the Georgia General Assembly to serve on the NCSL Executive Committee was the late Sen. Paul D. Coverdell, who served in the state Senate until 1992, when he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

The Executive Committee is the governing body of the Conference, and they and the Conference officers, including Sen. Balfour in his newly elected position as vice president, have supervision, control and direction of the affairs of the Conference, its committees and publications. It also implements the policies and supervises the disbursement of its funds.

"Georgia will have a stronger voice in Washington with Senator Balfour as vice president of one of the most influential organizations in the nation," Senate President Pro Tempore Eric Johnson (R-Savannah) said from the NCSL Conference in Boston, following Sen. Balfour's unanimous election.

Senate Majority Leader Tommie Williams, also in Boston, echoed Sen. Johnson's comments. "We're all very proud of Senator Balfour, he is, and has been, a great asset to the Georgia Senate, and now to NCSL. His new position is just another example of Georgia's growing prominence among state legislatures."

Sen. Balfour's term of office begins immediately.

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Sen. Don Balfour serves as Chairman of the Rules Committee. He represents the 9th Senate District which includes a portion of Gwinnett County. He may be reached by phone at 404.656.0095 or by e-mail at don.balfour@senate.ga.gov.